

Historic, archived document

Do not assume content reflects current scientific knowledge, policies, or practices.

STATISTICAL SUMMARY

Agricultural Marketing Service, U.S.D.A. Washington, D. C. January 21, 1954 SS 134

Early 1954 Crop Outlook

Among factors likely to affect 1954 crop production the most important is probably the crop reduction program, which will cover cotton, wheat, tobacco, peanuts, and perhaps corn in the commercial area. Much of the diverted acreage is expected to go into grasslands and summer fallow, but some increases are likely in the acreage of soybeans, oats, barley and sorghums. Rye acreage sown has already increased sharply.

Dry soils hindered fall plowing and made conditions unfavorable to hazardous for fall-sown grains. The mild fall and early winter weather with fairly general rains has permitted continued field operations and development of grains until the situation now is about normal. Concern is felt, however, in large interior areas and the Southwest because of short subsoil moisture supplies. The Rocky Mountain snowpack, source of irrigation water, is well below usual but most of the winter is still ahead.

The farm labor supply is better adjusted to probable demand, all available fertilizer is likely to be used in 1954, and machinery and equipment appear to be adequate. These factors, which should contribute to timeliness of operations and yields, and the likelihood that better adapted land will be kept in crops, make it seem likely that the uptrend in yields per acre in recent years will be continued.

Near-Average Winter Wheat Crop is Likely

Although winter wheat acreage is a fifth smaller than that sown for the 1953 crop and 9 percent below average, a near-average outturn seems likely. Since the December forecast, conditions in general have been at least as favorable as usual.

Farm Stocks of Feed Grains Relatively Large

A total of 76 million tons of feed grains remained on farms January 1, 1954. These relatively large stocks are virtually the same as a year ago and will provide a liberal supply for the smallest number of animal units to be fed in the last 5 seasons. Indications are that carry-over supplies into the 1954-55 feeding season—especially of corn—are likely to be increased over those carried at the beginning of the 1953-54 feeding season.

Corn Stocks on Farms 5% Above Average

Farm stocks of corn January 1, 1954, totaled 2,138 million bushels, 1 percent less than a year earlier, but 5 percent above average. Disappearance during the October-December 1953 quarter was 1,061 million bushels, 7 percent greater than for the same period in 1952 and 2 percent larger than average. Corn is the only feed grain that has moved rapidly from farms. Part of this, of course, has moved into C.C.C. storages.

Wheat Stocks on Farms Third Largest

January 1 farm stocks of 424 million bushels of wheat are third largest of record, reflecting a relatively large

quantity under government loans. Current stocks are 6 percent larger than a year earlier and 12 percent larger than average. Through November 15, 1953, a total of 144 million bushels of farm-stored 1953-crop wheat had been placed under Government commodity loans—more than double the quantity a year earlier. Disappearance of wheat from farm storage between Oct. 1, 1953, and Jan. 1, 1954 was 140 million bushels, compared with 112 million bushels during the same period a year earlier and the average of 154 million bushels.

Other Grain Stocks on Farms Jan. 1, 1954

Oats—778.5 million bushels—1 percent smaller than a year earlier and 6 percent below average. Disappearance during the October-December 1953 quarter was 206 million bushels. This compares with a disappearance of 214 million bushels in 1952 and the average of 241.9 million bushels for the quarter.

Barley—108 million bushels—9 million bushels more than the relatively small holdings on farms a year ago, but 32 million bushels less than the 10-year January 1 average farm stocks. Disappearance of barley from farms during the 4th quarter of 1953 totaled 41 million bushels, a fourth larger than the small disappearance of 33 million bushels in the same period a year earlier.

Rye—6,587,000 bushels—one-third below average, but nearly 3 million bushels larger than the record low January 1 stocks held on farms a year earlier.

Sorghum grain—36.2 million bushels, 52 percent larger than the very low holdings on farms a year earlier but 37 percent smaller than the 1945-52 average. Disappearance of 76.2 millions of sorghum grain from farms

Current Indexes for Agriculture

Index Numbers	Base Period	Dec. 1953
Prices received by farmers	1910-14=100	252
Prices paid by farmers, interest, taxes and wage rates	1910-14=100	278
Parity ratio	1910-14=100	91
Farm wage rates	1910-14=100	1/525
Wholesale prices of food.....	1947-49=100	2/104
Retail prices of food	1947-49=100	2/112
Weekly factory earnings	1947-49=100	2/145
Production Comparisons	Jan.-Dec. 1952	Jan.-Dec. 1953
Milk, (bil. lb.)	115.1	120.2
Eggs, (bil.)	61.0	62.0
Beef, (dr. wt., mil. lb.)	3/ 6,483	3/ 8,503
Lamb & Mutton (dr. wt., mil. lb.)....	3/ 525	3/ 587
Pork & lard, (mil. lb.).....	3/10,127	3/ 8,821
All meats, (dr. wt., mil. lb.).....	3/17,725	3/18,718

1/ January 1954 figure.

2/ November 1953 figure.

3/ January-November 1953 under Federal inspection.

in the October-December period of 1953 was considerably larger than the 65 million bushels for the similar period in 1952, but otherwise was much less than for any other comparable period since 1947.

Soybeans—80 million bushels, 4 million bushels less than a year earlier. The 10-year average January 1 farm stocks amount to 66 million bushels. From a total supply of 268 million bushels on October 1, 1953, 188 million bushels moved from farms in the 4th quarter of 1953, compared with the record 216 million bushels moved a year earlier.

Flaxseed—16,315,000 bushels—the largest quantity held on farms on this date since estimates were started in 1948.

Farm Stocks of Hay are Adequate

Farm stocks of hay are adequate for winter feeding demands, including any further shipments needed by shortage areas. The estimated 69.5 million tons on farms January 1 are 2 percent above a year earlier, although 1 percent below average.

Orange Production 15% Above Average

The 1953-54 orange crop is forecast at nearly 122 million boxes—2 percent more than the 1952-53 crop and 15 percent more than average. About 28 million boxes were used by January 1, 1954, leaving about 94 million boxes available after January 1. Last season the crop was later maturing and about 100 million boxes were still available on January 1.

Below-Average Grapefruit Production

Grapefruit production is forecast at 42.9 million boxes compared with 38.4 million last season and the average of 51.2 million. Utilization to January 1 totaled about 12 million boxes, leaving about 31 million boxes for use after January 1. A year ago about 28 million boxes were still available.

Winter Vegetable Production Declines

The production of commercial vegetables for fresh market during the winter season of 1954 is estimated to be 5 percent smaller than in 1953 but 1 percent above the 4-year average. Cabbage, carrots, and celery show the greatest tonnage reductions from a year ago.

Record High Milk Production in 1953

Milk production during December 1953 totaled 8,791 million pounds, 5 percent more than for the same month of 1952, and the largest December production on record by a considerable margin.

Total milk production during 1953 is tentatively estimated at 120.2 billion pounds, 4 percent more than in 1952 and slightly above the previous high annual output of 119.8 billion pounds in 1945.

1953 Egg Production 11% Above Average

Farm flocks laid 5,267 million eggs in December, 5 percent more than in December 1952 and a record high for the month. 1953 production totaled 61,962 million eggs—2 percent above 1952. Most of this increase was due to a higher rate of lay. The annual rate per layer on

hand during 1953 was 182 eggs, compared with 178 in 1952 and the average of 158 eggs.

Fewer Cattle on Feed

Cattle on feed January 1 totaled 5,334,000 head, 9 percent fewer than a year earlier. The 1948-52 average was 4,489,000 head. In the Corn Belt 4,052,000 cattle were on feed, the second highest on record. The peak number was 4,488,000 on January 1, 1953.

Fewer Sheep and Lambs on Feed

The number of sheep and lambs on feed for market on January 1 was 4 percent smaller than a year earlier. Weather conditions to January 1 have been generally favorable for lamb feeding. Feed supplies are adequate to abundant except in the drought areas of the Southwest.

Prices Received and Prices Paid by Farmers Index Numbers, 1910-14 = 100

Item	Dec. 1952	Nov. 1953	Dec. 1953
Prices received by farmers....	269	249	252
Crops	257	234	233
Food grains	247	229	230
Feed grains and hay.....	218	188	197
Tobacco	428	433	427
Cotton.....	268	268	259
Fruit	206	219	215
Truck crops	256	186	195
Oil-bearing crops	300	263	269
Livestock and products	280	263	269
Meat animals	291	267	285
Dairy products.....	309	289	283
Poultry and eggs.....	221	225	219
Prices paid by farmers:			
All commodities	267	259	260
Commodities used in living	269	270	270
Commodities used in			
production	264	248	250
All commodities, interest,			
taxes, and wage rates	281	277	278
Parity ratio (prices rec'd to			
prices paid by farmers)	96	90	91

Parity Prices for Farm Products and Actual Prices Received

Commodity and Unit	Actual Price		Parity Price Dec. 15 1953
	Nov. 15 1953	Dec. 15 1953	
Wheat, bu..... dol.	2.00	2.01	2.45
Corn, bu..... dol.	1.33	1.41	1.78
Peanuts, lb..... ct.	10.9	11.0	13.3
Cotton, lb. 1/..... ct.	31.82	30.73	34.35
Potatoes, bu..... dol.	.916	.825	1.59
Hogs, 100 lb..... dol.	20.00	22.80	20.20
Beef cattle, 100 lb..... dol.	14.70	14.80	21.00
Calves, 100 lb..... dol.	15.00	15.80	23.30
Lambs, 100 lb..... dol.	17.20	17.30	22.80
Butterfat, lb..... ct.	66.8	66.3	74.2
Milk, wholesale, 100 lb... dol.	4.72	2/ 4.61	4.67
Chickens, live, lb..... ct.	23.6	22.4	30.6
Eggs, doz..... ct.	49.7	48.5	3/47.7

1/ American upland cotton.

2/ Preliminary.

3/ Transitional parity.

Farm Employment Down; Wage Rates Rise

Farm employment in late December totaled 6,390,000 persons, about a million and three-quarters fewer than a month earlier, and slightly fewer than in December 1952.

Average farm employment in 1953 was 8,580,000, down about 1 percent from 1952. The downward trend in numbers of persons working on farms appears to have slowed this year.

Farm wage rates on about January 1 averaged a little higher than a year ago. The seasonally adjusted index reached a new high of 525, up 2 percent from a year earlier and from the previous quarter.

CURRENT ESTIMATES

Farm-Retail Price Spreads

Marketing Margin and Farmer's Share of the Consumer's Dollar for Market Basket of Farm-food Products

Year and month	Retail cost 1/	Farm value 2/	Marketing margin	Farmer's share
1952 average.....	\$1,028	\$481	\$547	47%
1952 - Nov.	1,038	484	554	47
1953 - Oct. 3/	1,009	449	560	44
Nov. 4/	990	442	548	45

1/ Retail cost of average quantities of farm foods purchased per urban wage-earner and clerical-worker family in 1952, calculated from retail prices collected by Bureau of Labor Statistics.

2/ Payment to farmers for equivalent quantities of farm produce minus imputed value of byproducts obtained in processing.

3/ Revised.

4/ Preliminary.

For comparisons with earlier months and years see The Marketing and Transportation Situation.

Cash Receipts from Farming, United States 1/2

Source	Nov. 1953		Dec. 1953 2/
	Mil. dol.	Mil. dol.	
Farm marketings and CCC loans 3/....	3,487	3,000	
Livestock and products	1,573	1,500	
Meat animals	858		
Dairy products	334		
Poultry and eggs	365		
Other	16		
Crops	1,914	1,500	
Food grains.....	233		
Feed crops	230		
Cotton (lint and seed).....	704		
Oil-bearing crops	227		
Tobacco	82		
Vegetables	121		
Fruits and tree nuts.....	135		
Other	182		
Government payments	13		
Total cash receipts	3,500		

1/ For comparisons of cash receipts with earlier months and years, see issues of the Farm Income Situation.

2/ Preliminary.

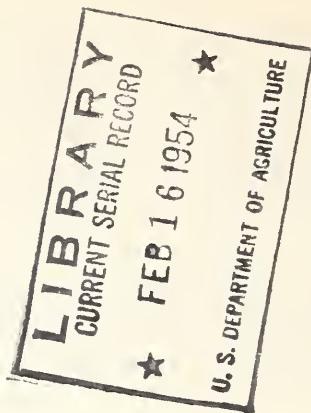
3/ Receipts from loans represent value of loans minus value of redemptions during the month.

Cash Receipts from Farm Marketings, by States, Nov. 1953 1/2

State and Region	Livestock and products	Crops	Total
	\$ Thous.	\$ Thous.	\$ Thous.
Maine	8,352	5,102	13,454
New Hampshire	5,341	1,270	6,611
Vermont.....	7,831	931	8,762
Massachusetts	12,911	9,450	22,361
Rhode Island	1,683	646	2,329
Connecticut	11,995	7,786	19,781
New York	53,465	27,781	81,246
New Jersey	21,516	7,399	28,915
Pennsylvania	49,614	11,818	61,432
North Atlantic	172,708	72,183	244,891
Ohio	64,737	32,427	97,164
Indiana	61,954	30,743	92,697
Illinois	99,588	75,232	174,820
Michigan.....	34,811	26,162	60,973
Wisconsin	80,488	9,943	90,431
East North Central	341,578	174,507	516,085
Minnesota	79,223	53,284	132,507
Iowa	177,561	52,233	229,794
Missouri	64,376	49,596	113,972
North Dakota	20,877	56,335	77,212
South Dakota	39,547	26,629	66,176
Nebraska.....	65,283	33,684	98,967
Kansas	49,969	39,486	89,455
West North Central.....	496,836	311,247	808,083
Delaware	5,205	1,861	7,066
Maryland	12,969	11,761	24,730
Virginia	22,145	37,761	59,906
West Virginia	8,617	2,945	11,562
North Carolina	18,693	78,544	97,237
South Carolina	8,457	23,443	31,900
Georgia	21,836	52,444	74,280
Florida	10,339	29,781	40,120
South Atlantic	108,261	238,540	346,801
Kentucky	20,969	14,334	35,303
Tennessee	19,982	48,127	68,109
Alabama	13,355	44,158	57,513
Mississippi	12,770	126,186	138,956
Arkansas	14,039	99,349	113,388
Louisiana	9,663	55,108	64,771
Oklahoma	28,041	38,582	66,623
Texas	72,131	190,460	262,591
South Central.....	190,950	616,304	807,254
Montana	31,482	40,003	71,485
Idaho	13,575	38,010	51,585
Wyoming	20,308	7,242	27,550
Colorado	32,737	24,676	57,413
New Mexico	17,394	20,200	37,594
Arizona	10,281	72,103	82,384
Utah	11,417	5,597	17,014
Nevada	3,135	320	3,455
Washington	16,947	52,457	69,404
Oregon	20,197	23,954	44,151
California	85,524	216,379	301,903
Western Region	262,997	500,941	763,938
United States	1,573,330	1,913,722	3,487,052

1/ All figures represent sales of farm products, plus Commodity Credit loans reported during the month, minus Commodity Credit loans repaid during the month.

2/ For comparisons of cash receipts with earlier months and years, see issues of the Farm Income Situation.



U. S. Department of Agriculture
Washington 25, D. C.

Penalty for private use to avoid
payment of postage \$300

OFFICIAL BUSINESS

AMS - SSL - 134 - 1/54
Permit No. 1001